

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 0001 and 0064, of the specification as follows:

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/089,151, now U.S. Patent No. 6,736,689, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 19, 2002 as a national stage application of PCT/FR01/02463, which had been filed on July 26, 2001, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety and the priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §120.

[0064] Because of the elastic foam of the partition, this vertical deflection of the deck will not be entirely transmitted to the lower half-shell. Indeed, the elastic foam will absorb part of the deformation energy transmitted to the board by the foot, therefore minimizing the deformation of the hull in contact with the water (the shape of the hull indeed is important because it determines the behavior of the board on the water, and it should therefore not be too greatly affected by the surfer's movements). With a conventional board, where the foam blank is made of rigid polyurethane foam, and where the central partition is rigid (for example made of wood), the deck has almost no possibility to deflect under the foot, and almost all of the deformation of the deck translates into a similar deformation of the hull. Therefore, the use of an elastically deformable foam smoothens the board's response to the pressure exerted by the foot. Moreover, and in particular embodiments in which no structural outer lining layer is applied along the height of the foam partition(s), or even along a majority of the height of such foam partition(s), as shown in FIG. 14, for example, which illustrates an example by which such partition can be regarded at least as consisting essentially of foam, the elastic or visco-elastic properties of the foam of the partition determine the nature of the response to pressures exerted by the foot.